

**WIPO's Input for the Report of the Secretary-General on Implementation of the
Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) for Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)
for the Decade 2014 – 2024**

(Reporting Period: 2020-2021)

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) provides an important resource base for accessing scientific and technological information. Thus, its technical assistance, especially on innovation promotion and technological capacity building, is becoming increasingly instrumental for achieving structural transformation in landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), and thereby contributing to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA).

During the reporting period, there has been a continued progress in WIPO's technical cooperation programs and activities delivered to LLDCs, as follows:

- **National IP Policies and Strategies (NIPS):** WIPO assists Member States in integrating intellectual property (IP) into their national development policies and strategies to create enabling conditions for generating economically valuable IP assets and exploiting innovations, new technologies and the works of creativity. Currently, out of 32 LLDCs, 21 of them have adopted and are in the process of implementing NIPS.
- In addition to providing access to critical scientific and technological information resources through its programs on **Access to Research and Development Information (ARDI)** and **Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI)**, WIPO has been supporting the use of these resources by helping establish the networks of **Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs)** in numerous countries around the world. By 2021, the number of LLDCs that received access to ARDI has reached 23, whereas eight LLDCs benefited from ASPI Programs. By 2021, 18 LLDCs have TISCs networks established by WIPO.
- A substantial part of WIPO's technical assistance to LLDCs has focused on **capacity building and skills development**. For instance, in 2020, 34 participants from 21 LLDCs have taken part in the WIPO Academy Master' Degree Training Program on IP. Furthermore, 37 participants from eight LLDCs were included in the WIPO-PRV-Sida Training Program on Intellectual Property Rights for the LDCs.
- Also, the implementation of a number of **technical assistance projects** were continued in LLDCs in the areas of technology transfer, innovation ecosystem, branding, copyright in creative industries, traditional knowledge, institutional IP policy and others¹.

¹ These include, for instance, the Project on Transfer of Appropriate Technology for Development in Uganda; the Project on Development of the Music Sector and New Economic Models of Music in Burkina Faso and in Certain Countries of the West Economic and Monetary Union; the Project on Innovation Eco-System Architecture in Rwanda; the Project on Increasing the Role of Women in Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Encouraging Women in Developing Countries to Use the Intellectual Property System in Uganda; the Projects on Enabling IP Environment to Strengthen the Business Competitiveness through Brands and Designs in Afghanistan, Bhutan, Lao, Mongolia and Nepal, a Branding Project Using Intellectual Property (IP) for "Chobe Baskets" in Botswana and others. Also, support was provided by WIPO for the implementation of the national Project on Capacity Development in Innovation and Intellectual Property Rights for Royal University of Bhutan and Development of University-Wide Innovation and IP Policy and Strategy as well as for the Project on Enhancing Economic Growth by Securing Intellectual Property Rights for Traditional and Herbal Medicines in Ethiopia.

- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, WIPO has modified its work processes to ensure that its IP services are delivered without interruption. WIPO has developed tools to assist scientists, researchers and policymakers in finding solutions to the challenges posed by COVID-19. For instance, **COVID-19 Glossary**, which contains key concepts related to the COVID-19 pandemic, in the fields of biology, medicine and public health. It provides easy access to definitions, multilingual equivalents in ten languages, contexts and concept maps, as well patents containing these terms. A search facility, **COVID-19 Index of PATENTSCOPE** database provides easy access to patent information related to the detection, prevention, and treatment of diseases such as the novel coronavirus. Moreover, **COVID-19 IP Policy Tracker** provides information on measures adopted by IP offices in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The majority of the above-mentioned technical assistance programs and activities is an integral part of **WIPO Deliverables for the UN Roadmap for Accelerated Implementation of the VPoA**, which take into account the relevant priorities of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs, and are in line with the spirit of the Political Declaration of the High-level Midterm Review on the Implementation of the VPoA, which encourages the development of science, technology and innovation. They focus on areas such as the development of national innovation systems; effective use of IP system for development and economic growth; access and use of technical, scientific and patent information for technological capacity building; capacity building on transfer of appropriate technologies for development, and capacity building for universities and research institutes on establishing and functioning of Technology Transfer Offices. These deliverables are being implemented through various units and sectors of the Organization, given the particular needs of the landlocked developing countries in the related areas.

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